

AIR DISTRICT TO BECOME AN AQMD ON JANUARY 1st

In August 2001, Governor Gray Davis signed Assembly Bill 771 abolishing the Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control District and in its place creating the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District, effective January 1, 2002.

Assemblyman George Runner introduced the bill this past February citing the need for “greater control over local decisions,” as his reason for authoring the bill in an August Antelope Valley Press article.

The reclassification affords the District greater autonomy and flexibility over its own budget, and enables it to implement its own personnel system. Boundaries, governing board structure, and general duties will remain the same. District Chairman Frank Roberts adds that another reason for the change, “Is titular – we don’t want to be an air ‘pollution’ control district. Management is more positive-sounding. Having the term “pollution” in the name implies that the AV has a dirty air problem, which really isn’t the case.” Roberts added that, “Clean air is good for business because it encourages businesses looking to relocate to consider the Valley. Also Edwards Air Force Base requires clean air and high visibility for its flight testing and flight photography,” Roberts added.

In observance of its transition to an AQMD, the District will host a “Launch Lunch” at the Plaza Park Hotel in Lancaster on Tuesday, January 15. For more information, contact the AVAPCD at (661) 723-8070.